

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-20, as shown above, remain pending herein. Applicants have amended base claims 1, 11, 15 and 18 to clarify that there is a transparent solid area through which the camera lens receives optical signals.

Applicants first respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider withdrawing the finality of the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 after considering the previous Amendment, which was considered only after the filing of an RCE. Applicants note that an RCE was filed in response to the Advisory Action of March 11, 2004, said Advisory Action indicated that the Amendment of February 20, 2004 **both**: “raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search” (item 2A) and then states at item 5 that there was reconsideration performed in view of the Amendment, but that the changes to the claims allegedly did not place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, it could not be determined whether the Amendment was even considered.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit in reply to the Response to Arguments section that the previous amendment did not argue about the references individually. Instead, the response argued that combination could not teach/suggest what was alleged by the references if certain elements that alleged to be disclosed/suggested by a certain reference were not in fact disclosed by that reference, and thus, proving that the combination of references as a whole did not disclose or suggest such elements. Just as the Examiner alleged refers to each reference individually when alleging that the

combination of references obviated the claims because reference A allegedly discloses certain claimed elements, and reference B allegedly discloses other claimed elements so that the combination of teachings obviate the claims, it is not improper for the Applicants to respond that the combination fails as a whole to disclose or suggest the claims because Reference A, reference B and/or the alleged combination of teachings of A and B does not disclose one or more claimed elements.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-15 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya et al. (U.S. 5,537,175, hereafter "Kamaya") in view of Baumgarten (U.S. 5,940,229). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Throughout the instant application, there is no drawing/discussion of the two-way transparent center area comprising a hole. In each case the two-way center area is portion of the mirror wherein the mirror surface lacks the reflective coating.

In the Final Office Action, it is alleged by the Examiner that the combination of references would have made, for example, instant claim 1 obvious to an artisan at the time of invention because the combination allegedly teaches a center hole 80 (as shown in Fig. 5 of Baumgarten). Applicants respectfully disagree that a portion of the mirror having a center with two-way transparency is met by the disclosure of a hole from the combination of Baumgarten and Kamaya.

The combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten, as a whole, fails to teach, disclose, suggest or to provide motivation to the artisan such that the recitation that the mirror has a two-way transparent solid center area to permit the camera to capture the camera image.

With regard to the combination of Baumgarten and Kamaya, it should be noted that the combination, as a whole, fails to disclose or suggest a two-way transparent solid center area.

For example, the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten fails to disclose or suggest the above-recitation of the instant claims because Kamaya, at Fig. 19, element 40 shows a one-way mirror 41. The mirror does not have a two-way transparency, as at best it has one way transparency so that a user can see himself. Baumgarten at best, discloses a hole 80 shown in Fig. 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it cannot be said that the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten would have disclosed, suggested, or motivated the artisan at the time of invention to provide a mirror with a two-way transparency, let alone a two-way transparency arranged in a solid center area of the mirror because the combination of references allegedly may disclose (at best) putting a hole in the mirror, or making the center a one-way mirror.

Furthermore, the instant specification at page 6, lines 3-8, discloses the use of a "one-way" mirror in lieu of the two-way transparent center shown in Fig. 1. In both of these examples in the specification, as well as in the drawings, the mirror is solid.

Accordingly, at least for the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that none of base claims 1, 11, 15 and 18 would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of the combination of references. All of the claims dependent there from are believed to be allowable at least for their dependency on an allowable base claim, and because of an individual basis for patentability. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Braun (U.S. 5,532,737). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Braun to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still, when considering the combination as a whole, fails even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 3, therefore is believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 1, with claim 1 being allowable for the reasons indicated in the above-traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Kakii (U.S. 6,137,526). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Kakii to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails, when considering the combination as a whole, even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 5 and 12, therefore are believed to be allowable at least for respective dependence from claims 1 and 11, with claims 1 and 11 believed allowable at least for the reasons indicated in the above-traversal of said claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Kawashima et al. (U.S. 6,079,862, hereafter "Kawashima").

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Kawashima to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails, when considering the combination as a whole, even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 8, therefore is believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 1, as claim 1 is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the above traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten, as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Parulski et al. (U.S. 5,943,603, hereafter "Parulski").

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Parulski to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails, when considering the combination as a whole, even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claims 16-17, therefore are believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 15, as claim 15 is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the above traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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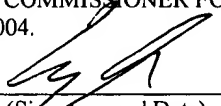
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